

to Hurricane Katrina. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. has contributed \$17 million to relief efforts and donated 19 vacant facilities for use by relief agencies.

After the storm made landfall, the company immediately dispatched pre-positioned trucks to the devastated region bearing \$3 million worth of emergency supplies. In addition, Wal-Mart employees personally donated over \$9 million.

To quote *Fortune* magazine, "The world's biggest company flexed its massive distribution muscle to deliver vital supplies to victims of Hurricane Katrina."

It was this distribution muscle that provided relief to the hardest hit areas. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and its employees have earned our respect and our heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Speaker, there are other companies, perhaps not as large, that contributed in quiet, unheralded ways to Hurricane Katrina relief.

One additional company I would like to highlight is EADS, a European aerospace and defense firm that has recently chosen to open a facility in Mobile, Alabama, my home town.

In the chaotic days immediately following landfall of Hurricane Katrina, two EADS helicopters flew dangerous missions to rescue stranded victims, transport medical personnel, and deliver critical supplies to the Gulf Coast, stopping only to load, unload, and refuel.

EADS also coordinated with Airbus to deliver 23 tons of blankets, cots, tents and other items donated by the United Kingdom and France. The aid was flown onboard the Airbus A300-600ST cargo jetliner, also known as the Beluga, from Europe to Brookley Field in Mobile, Alabama.

In addition to the rescue and aid missions, EADS built a mobile medical rescue station in Long Beach, Mississippi. EADS, the German government, and Airbus coordinated to move the 12-ton medical rescue station from Frankfurt to Atlanta. Once in Atlanta, the Airbus Beluga moved it to Mississippi. The rescue station is staffed by 38 doctors and treats approximately 150 patients a day, handling everything from routine immunizations to surgical procedures.

In this time of such extreme adversity for the people of the Gulf Coast, the people of EADS truly came to our aid. I am humbled by their dedication and commitment to help in the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly grateful to the national and international corporations that made generous contributions in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. I have singled out two for our well-deserved thanks, and I am glad to call them neighbors.

TRIBUTE TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the dedicated men and women who have served, and those who continue to serve and protect this great Nation.

Veterans Day is a day of remembrance and rededication. We pause to remember the noble service and great sacrifices of those who have worn our Nation's uniform. And we

rededicate ourselves, in the words of President Lincoln, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle."

As our Nation is at war, we look to the brave mothers, fathers, sons and daughters that have answered the call to defend us. With courage and character, American soldiers continue to put themselves on the line to defend our freedom, and so many have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. As more veterans return home from the battlefield, let us honor the service of all veterans, young and old, that have stood guard and fought so bravely to ensure our freedom. Our Nation must provide sufficient access to healthcare, adequate benefits, and the supplemental resources our veterans were promised and so dearly need. We owe our heroes no less.

Today and every day, the prayers of the American people are with those who wear our country's uniform. They serve a great cause and they follow a great tradition, handed down to them by America's greatest heroes, our veterans. Veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the life we know today. They command the respect of the American people, and they have our everlasting gratitude.

May God bless our troops. May God bless our veterans and their families. And may God bless the United States of America.

A TRIBUTE TO RON DOWNS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Ron Downs of Fresno, California. Mr. Downs was a respected member of the Fresno police department. He passed away Monday, October 31st, 2005 of a heart attack; he was three weeks away from retirement.

Mr. Downs was sworn as a police officer in July 1, 1967, at the young age of 22. He worked as a lieutenant and commander of the special investigations bureau, for the department's narcotics unit. He previously was commander of the internal affairs bureau. At the time of Mr. Downs' death, he was one of the longest-serving active officers in the department.

Mr. Downs worked tirelessly on behalf of our community for 38 years as a member of the police force. On any given day, he was willing to sacrifice his own safety to protect others. Mr. Downs was an exemplary citizen; his contributions to our community will be long lived.

Mr. Downs is survived by his wife, Carolyn. He is also survived by his son, Kenneth Downs; his daughter, Kris Loughney; his wife's son, Michael Dick; three brothers; and five grandchildren. The community of Fresno is

saddened by his passing and I would like to extend my condolences to his family.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANITA BOERI 93 YEAR OLD WORLD WAR II MARINE VETERAN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the many accomplishments of Anita Boeri, whose lifetime of service to her family and country is cause for celebration and honor this Veterans' Day.

Anita Boeri was born on July 6, 1912 to Louise and Rinaldo Boeri in the Italian enclave of East Harlem, NYC. After graduating from Erasmus Hall High School, Ms. Boeri attended Pratt Institute—the School of Home Economics in Brooklyn, NY—obtaining a degree as a dietitian. She also completed courses at the School of Business in Brooklyn.

After the outbreak of World War II, when the U.S. Marine Corps called for female volunteers, Anita Boeri applied and was accepted to the "Free a Marine to Fight" program as enlisted personnel on September 22, 1943. Her active duty began on November 30, 1943 with a trip to Camp LeJeune, New River, NC for basic training boot camp. In January of 1944, Ms. Boeri was a member of the first contingent of the Women's Reserve Battalion to arrive on Parris Island, South Carolina. After a week of orientation, she was assigned clerical duties in the office of the Commanding General.

Anita Boeri was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and through her hard work and dedication, became a confidential clerk to Major General Clayton B. Vogel, Commanding General, Parris Island. Ms. Boeri was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps Women's Reserve on November 26, 1945.

Following her career of service to her country, Anita Boeri spent the next 35 years of her life caring for her family. She cared for her ailing father and mother as well as her uncle who lived in the apartment above her.

In 1998, Anita Boeri moved to Atria Senior Living in Huntington Station, NY. There she joined the community with enthusiasm, volunteering for various duties in the gift shop and keeping in touch with Atria residents who were hospitalized.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend it will be my great honor to present Ms. Boeri with two medals to recognize her achievements—the World War II Victory Medal and the American Campaign Medal. As Veterans' Day approaches, all Americans can look to the achievements of Anita Boeri as a model of commitment and service.

HONORING MR. JAMES BERTRAL GALLOWAY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. James Bertral Galloway, who

was born on November 3, 1924, in the Hopewell Community near Geraldine, Alabama. Mr. Galloway was a Navy veteran who served stateside in Chincoteague, Virginia as an air mechanic, near the end of World War II. He later married the former Miss Pauline Mayes on October 17, 1970. Until retirement, the two of them taught school at Geraldine High School. Mrs. Galloway taught remediation for 30 years, and Mr. Galloway taught history and also coached basketball.

As a devoted teacher, Mr. Galloway also had a passion for the contributions of veterans to our society, and a desire to honor those contributions. Mr. Galloway started the Geraldine Veterans Day Program. Spanning three decades, 2005 marks its 31st year. This program has become a Geraldine staple, and its special nature is attested to by the fact that it prompts surrounding communities to make plans to attend each year.

In recent years, the Geraldine School administration, in conjunction with the Student Government Association, has sponsored the Veterans Day Program and has taken it to new heights. The well-organized program, with the participation of the SGA, sponsors, faculty, and of course the veterans themselves includes being escorted to special seating, commemorative speeches, drama productions, and martial music in front of the student body, which numbers over 1,100. Each veteran is recognized by name, service branch, years of service and theater of operations. There is a special memorial component of the program, to honor those veterans who have passed away during the year. Upon conclusion of the formal program, the veterans and their families share a meal together and have the opportunity to visit the school, where the halls and doorways have been decorated with a patriotic theme.

It is with sadness I note that Mr. James Galloway passed away on July 13, 2005. I want to publicly express how deeply he will be missed. His efforts will not be forgotten or unnoticed, and although we mourn his absence, we celebrate his many years of unselfish service to the community. His sincerity and devotion to country and service shine to this day. The Veterans Day Program at Geraldine School is one that has enriched countless lives for 31 years. Through Mr. James Bertral Galloway's efforts, and those who followed him, the Geraldine School community has a greater appreciation of the sacrifices made by our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday November 7, 2005 and Tuesday November 8, 2005 due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present on November 7, I would have voted: "yea" to H. Con Res. 260—Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, and the continuing need for mutual inter-religious respect and dialogue; "yea" to H.R. 1973—the Water for the Poor Act of

2005 and "yea" to H. Res. 444—the Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education.

Had I been present on November 8, I would have voted: "no" on the motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair; "yea" to H. Res. 38—Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; "yea" to H. Res. 302—Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States; and "yea" to H.R. 3770—Grant W. Green Post Office Building Designation Act.

FAIR ACCESS FOSTER CARE ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005. This bill will provide for fair access to foster care maintenance payments by adding private for-profit agencies to the list of eligible recipients. Currently, State and non-profit agencies are the only therapeutic foster care providers eligible for this funding. Children with special medical, psychological, emotional, and social needs are the most vulnerable in the foster care system. Congress should provide strong support for all agencies willing to be involved in these fragile lives.

For children who enter foster care, separation from birth parents is traumatic, and separation from siblings who share a common history is a devastating, ultimately isolating loss. Since the 1980s, researchers have focused increasing attention on the importance of sibling ties. Siblings who are placed together have been known to transition more smoothly into new homes, and most researchers agree that attachments between siblings are critically important. In recent years, many states have taken action to help siblings stay together.

I am pleased to share with you an encouraging story of hope from my district. The Salvation Army chapter in Wichita, Kansas, conducts an annual birth family Christmas party and a summer picnic at Camp Hiawatha that provides an opportunity to reunite foster care children and their birth families. In addition to these annual events, the staff works with United Methodist Youthville to provide sibling visits a couple times a month. The foster care parents are required to make the connection for these visits with the foster child's siblings and/or parents.

In May of this year, there were 4,789 foster care children in the State of Kansas, and 542,000 in the country. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the average stay for a child in the foster care system is 33 months. About 44 percent of these children reunite with their birth parents. Over 50 percent of foster children become juvenile delinquents, and the same percentage does not complete high school. These statistics speak of the desperate need for a good and solid foster care system, and of the com-

mendable work so many agencies and families are willing to do for these children. Children in the foster care system become the responsibility of us all and their lives are changed forever when Americans begin to take that responsibility personally. My colleague Congressman TOM DELAY has both fostered children and been involved with foster care programs for years and I commend his work on this issue.

I am proud to support this legislation that will increase the access and opportunity for therapeutic foster care for our Nation's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. Earlier today, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 573, 574, 575 and 576 due to a prior obligation in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 573 (to Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair on the Obey Motion to Instruct the Conferees on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006), "yea" on rollcall vote 574 (H. Res. 38, Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development H.R. 1973, The Water for the Poor Act of 2005) and "yea" on rollcall vote 575 (H. Res. 302, Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States and "yea" on rollcall Vote 576 (H.R. 3770, Grant W. Green Post Office Building Designation Act).

RECOGNITION OF HONORABLE THOMAS R. SUOZZI

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this year, *Governing.com*, a leading online publication for and about State and local governments and a subsidiary of Congressional Quarterly, announced their list of the 2005 Public Officials of the Year. Only eight State, county and local leaders from throughout our Nation received this most noteworthy award. It is an honor for me to bring to the attention of my colleagues and this House one of those eight outstanding public officials, the Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi, County Executive of Nassau County, New York.

Tom Suozzi is a true leader. He has led Nassau County for the past four years with common, practical sense; with an approach toward running government as a business; with a vision to the future while not forgetting our past; all the while making paramount the needs of the people of Nassau County. He has established a record as County Executive,